

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAMA 00810 040726Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /102 W
-----097145 042221Z /64

R 040404Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6017
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY LAGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0810

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: PORC, PEPR, EG, BA, XF
SUBJECT: BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER ON ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

REF: CAIRO 9680

1. BAHRAINI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH MOHAMMAD BIN MUBARAK
AL KHALIFA AGREED WITH REFTEL ASSESSMENT THAT CAIRO MEETING

WAS INDEED A "WIN" FOR EGYPT. FONMIN TOLD ME APRIL 3 THAT THERE IS STILL STRONG DESIRE FOR ARAB SUMMIT AMONG NUMBER OF STATES BUT THAT REJECTIONISTS, AT LEAST SYRIA, MUST AGREE TO ATTEND OR THERE IS NO POINT IN MEETING. PRESIDENT NUMAYRI WILL CHAIR COMMITTEE WHICH FONMIN SAID MAY TRAVEL TO ARAB CAPITALS IN ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE WIDEST POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION, PARTICULARLY SYRIA. DURING CAIRO MEETING LETTER WAS DRAFTED TO ALL AL CHIEFS OF STATE URGING AGREEMENT TO SUMMIT AND LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR NUMAYRI'S EFFORTS. FONMIN DID NOT FEEL SUMMIT LIKELY SOON DUE TO "CHILDISH" BEHAVIOR OF REJECTIONISTS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER WENT TO CAIRO MEETING WITH KUWAITI AND SAUDI COUNTERPARTS AND SAID THERE IN-FLIGHT RUMINATIONS WERE ABOUT WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH ARAB UNITY COULD BE RESTORED WITHOUT SADAT HAVING TO REPUDIATE HIS INITIATIVE, AS REJECTIONISTS DEMAND. HE SAID HE AND HIS TWO COLLEAGUES WERE AGREED THAT SADAT COULD NOT AND SHOULD NOT GIVE IN TO THIS REJECTIONIST DEMAND. INITIATIVE SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN, THOUGH NOTHING LIKELY TO COME OF IT, AS REMINDER TO WORLD OPINION THAT PEACE IS POSSIBLE. TASK FOR MODERATE ARABS IS TO BRING AT LEAST SYRIA BACK INTO CONTACT WITH EGYPT AND THEN TO FIND WAY TO RESTORE SEMBLANCE OF UNITY WITHOUT EITHER SIDE DEMANDING THE UNACCEPTABLE FROM THE OTHER. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THIS APPROACH WAS SUBJECT OF PRIVATE MEETING IN CAIRO BETWEEN HIMSELF, SAUDIS, KUWAITIS, SUDANESE AND "SOME EGYPTIANS".
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3. FONMIN COMMENTED THAT CAIRO MEETING PARTICIPANTS FELT THAT SUPPORT FOR SADAT IN EGYPT IS WEAKENING AND HIS INTERNAL CRITICS BECOMING MORE VOCAL AND OPEN.
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